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Note by the Secretary-General

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I. Association pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement de Kairouan (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The Association pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement de Kairouan (APNEK), founded in 1984, focuses mainly on advocacy. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that is locally rooted and internationally committed, focusing on the field, the national environment and sustainability. Its vision for NGO action is that development should be ethical and equitable, and its mission includes promoting environmental citizenship and governance through networking, partnership and strategizing. It aims at contributing to environmental protection locally and globally, nationwide and worldwide. It acts through communication campaigns and field projects.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in field and/or at Headquarters

Between 2005 and 2008, APNEK has focused on local, national and Mediterranean outreach and dissemination activities having to do with environmental citizenship and governance such as local Agenda 21 processes, waste management, climate change and elimination of obsolete pesticides.

APNEK attended United Nations-related Mediterranean conferences and seminars as follows: (a) the president of APNEK attended a meeting on the thirtieth anniversary of the Barcelona Convention organized by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Mediterranean Action Plan in June 2005 in Athens, with participants from several Mediterranean countries; (b) 14th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Portoroz, Slovenia, in November 2005; (c) the president of APNEK attended a seminar on the legal aspects of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols in Athens in October 2006, organized by UNEP; (d) APNEK's vice-president attended the 12th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2007; (e) 8th meeting of focal points for specially protected areas, in Palermo, Italy, in June 2007; and (f) 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Almeria, Spain, in January 2008.

2. Charity Foundation for Special Diseases (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Charity Foundation for Special Diseases (CFFSD) was established in 1996 to support and assist patients suffering from thalassaemia, haemophilia, renal failure and kidney transplantation and later on also included hepatitis, cancer, diabetes and multiple sclerosis. To achieve these objectives, the Foundation tries to raise public awareness about these diseases for prevention, treatment and care by attracting financial and legal support of Governments for these patients and encouraging public participation for development and equipping of new medical centres for patients with special diseases. During the past four years, three medical centres and a nursery were established by the Foundation, two medical centres in Tehran and one medical centre and the nursery in the city of Bam, Islamic Republic of Iran (demolished by an earthquake in 2004); thus the scope of activities and provision of medical services to infants and thalassaemia, renal failure, diabetes, cancer and kidney transplant patients have been considerably increased.

In order to take care of other therapeutic needs of these patients, various specialized general clinics, laboratories and para-clinical equipment are also being provided. In Villa Special Medical Centre in Tehran, in addition to the above-mentioned services, periodical scientific courses for the public in various fields, including nutrition, exercise, healthy living, insulin injection, are held. A total of 3,500 people have now benefited from these courses. The Genetics Laboratory at this Centre is one of the most advanced laboratories in the country, diagnosing over 150 rare genetic diseases. Various tests for prenatal genetic disease diagnosis are being carried out and several national and foreign Master of Science and Doctorate of Philosophy students are receiving a higher education. In spite of the high costs of these examinations, this Centre provides services to patients at Government-set prices. The Centre has also obtained the Quality Management Certificate for ISO 9001-2000. The establishment of new centres was made possible by contributions from benevolent and non-governmental charity organizations. Governmental assistance during the past four years has also increased by 50 per cent and charitable contributions have risen by 300 per cent during the same years. The Foundation has also established a specialized poly-clinic in the city of Kabul, which will become operational in 2009. The plans for a National Cancer Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a reference centre for education, prevention, treatment and care of patients living with cancer, have begun and will be completed in three years. This centre will have the capacity to admit and deliver services to 1,000 patients a day. The Foundation, through charitable donations, was able to provide 910 medical centres affiliated with public medical universities across the country with equipment needed for haemodialysis, thalassaemia and haemophilia patients.

With regard to expanded areas of activities, the Foundation has become a full member of the International Federation of Kidney Foundations and the International Society of Blood Transfusion and a board member of the Thalassaemia International Federation, which has an official relationship with the World Health Organization. At the national level, the Foundation works closely with the Research Centre for Endocrinology and Metabolism at Tehran University, the Family Planning

Association of Iran, which is a full member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the Advanced Technology Centre of the Presidential Office.

For health promotion, the Sports Federation for Patients with Special Diseases was established in 2005 with the support of the Foundation and has expanded its activities across the country. This Federation also facilitated the participation of patients with special diseases in world championship tournaments and patients have won several medals in international games.

Since 2005, the Foundation has participated and assisted in setting up 136 exhibitions at the national and international levels, including the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development exhibition held in April 2005 in Dubai, and has benefited from these occasions to promote public awareness on prevention and treatment of special diseases.

Other activities of the Foundation include setting up 23 educational and recreational camping trips for patients with special diseases; producing 20 educational and advocacy movies and clips on special diseases; holding a special film festival; and distribution of over 3 million copies of publications to medical centres, patients and universities.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of United Nations

Representatives have attended the following international conferences related to special diseases: International Federation of Kidney Federations international conference (Curitiba, Brazil, April 2007), International Federation of Kidney Federations international conference (Mainz, Germany, May 2008), European Rare Diseases (Eurodis) international conference (Roskilde, Denmark, May 2008), Thalassaemia International Federation international conference (Singapore, October 2008), European Renal Associations international conference (Stockholm, May 2008), Thalassaemia International Federation international conference (Lisbon, November 2007), International Society of Blood Transfusion international conference (Hanoi, November 2007), International Federation of Kidney Federations international conference (Sicily, Italy, June 2006), and Thalassaemia International Federation, international summer school congress (Anatolia, Turkey, April 2006).

Some conferences and seminars held at the national level related to special diseases are as follows: Dentistry Problems of Thalassaemia Patients, in cooperation with the Thalassaemia International Federation (Tehran, March 2008), New Findings in Treatment of Lung Cancer (Tehran, June 2008), New Findings on Treatment of Diabetes (Tehran, April 2008), Management of Treatment Costs of Patients with Special Disease (Tehran, November 2007), Seminar on Diabetes (Tehran, April 2007), New Findings in Diagnosis and Treatment of Special Diseases (Tehran, November 2006), Cardio-vascular Diseases in Diabetes (Tehran, August 2008), and International Workshop on Advanced Diagnosis on Genetic Diseases (Tehran, March 2007).

A. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Foundation has carried out the following activities in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1: Financial assistance provided for treatment of needy cancer, renal failure, kidney transplant, multiple sclerosis, thalassaemia and diabetes patients has been over 116 billion Iranian rials, equivalent to $11.6 million.

Goal 4: A nursery for infants in Bam, Islamic Republic of Iran, who lost their parents during the earthquake has been established and its operation has been transferred to local authorities.

Goal 5: Since 2006, through Villa Special Medical Centre and in cooperation with the Family Planning Association of Iran, the Foundation has provided services in many areas, including premarital counselling, pregnancy and safe delivery counselling, puberty and adolescent health education, emergency contraception counselling and service, promoting physical and mental health during menopause, cancer screening of cancers common in women (breast and uterus), family planning counselling and services and voluntary counselling and testing for HIV. By the end of 2008, 1,500 women had benefited from these services.

Goal 6: Establishment of 3 special medical centres in Tehran and the city of Bam, provision of services for thalassaemia, renal failure, kidney transplant and diabetes to over 60,000 patients, equipping medical centres with 624 haemodialysis machines and provision of over 4,000 beds and other related hospital equipment for dialysis, thalassaemia and haemophilia wards across the country.

In addition, over 1,600,000 books, magazines, posters and brochures on special diseases have been published.

B. Activities in support of global principles

Several advocacy meetings with the head and representatives of Parliament, cabinet ministers and other governmental authorities have been organized on the main problems of patients with special diseases.

Publicity to draw the attention of authorities and the community to the issue of special diseases has been done, through 920 mass media reports and 77 individual interviews by the President of the Foundation with national and international media networks on the occasion of the World Diabetes Day (14 November 2005-2008), International Thalassemia Day (8 May 2005-2008), World Cancer Day (4 February 2005-2008), World Haemophilia Day (17 April 2005-2008) and World Kidney Day (12 March 2005-2008). Several exhibitions have been set up for the relevant days.

Participation of representatives of the Foundation in meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies has not so far taken place because the Foundation concentrates on domestic issues, because it is difficult for Iranians to obtain visas to visit the United States of America and because of scarcity of funds (the Foundation is a charity relying mostly on public donations).

3. Covenant House (Special; 1985)

I. Introduction

The aims of Covenant House are to identify and address the social, psychological and physical problems of the urban poor, especially homeless, runaway and street children and youth, and to increase public awareness of the need for effective facilities to care for young people. Covenant House achieves these aims by providing crisis and transitional residential care and supportive services to more than 75,000 runaway and homeless young people every year. Covenant House has 21 sites throughout the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Services include street outreach, food and shelter, transitional housing, family reintegration, medical and nutritional assistance, job preparation and training, educational support, legal assistance and both substance abuse and mental health counselling. Covenant House also conducts extensive advocacy on behalf of children and child-related issues.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Attendance and participation in major conferences and United Nations meetings

In 2005, the Executive Director of Casa Alianza Guatemala attended the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights and contributed to forums focused on human rights in Guatemala and Latin America.

In 2006, representatives of Covenant House attended the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and submitted a written statement along with 268 other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the organization of the work of the Commission. Also in 2006, representatives of Covenant House attended the third session of the World Urban Forum. During the event, a Covenant House youth advocate spoke at a networking session on urban growth and the environment, the theme of which was "On the street, off the street: women, safety and security in urban places".

In 2007, Covenant House attended the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Also in 2007, a Covenant House representative attended meetings of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) in Vienna, and the Senior Vice President for Program Development served as Chair of the Campaign for United States Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and spoke at the Georgetown University National Symposium on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in June in Washington, D.C. and at the Colloquium on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November.

In 2008, Covenant House attended the eighth session of the Human Rights Council and contributed to forums focused on human rights issues in North and Central America. In September 2008, Covenant House contributed to the review of the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or

Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Working with the Government and non-governmental organizations in Honduras, Covenant House prepared a report for the Committee against Torture reviewing progress by Honduras in guaranteeing full enjoyment of human rights for its population, especially progress on the elimination of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

From 2005 to 2008, Covenant House served on the NGO Committee on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and served as Chair of that Committee for two of the four years. In addition, in January 2008, Covenant House collaborated with the independent expert responsible for the United Nations study on violence against children and in the editing of the report on the state of Latin American and Caribbean children. In August 2008, Covenant House collaborated with UNICEF, the Attorney General's Office of Guatemala and other governmental organizations in Guatemala to prepare a draft law that develops a system for assisting and protecting the victims of sexual trafficking, violence and exploitation in Guatemala, which was presented to Congress.

Initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Covenant House has carried out the following activities to implement the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1, targets 1 and 2: Covenant House works to empower homeless youth to lead healthy, happy and productive lives by offering them education, job training, job placement, family and individual social work and counselling, and other services. Especially in Latin America, where the vast majority of young people served by Covenant House experience extreme poverty, Covenant House aims to arm homeless young people with both job training and a reliable social network and personal skills that will enable them to gain employment and rise above a life of poverty. In 2008 alone, Covenant House helped over 70,000 homeless young people at facilities in cities throughout North and Central America.

Goal 2, target 1: Covenant House recognizes the importance of education in helping young people rise out of poverty and therefore works to get children off the streets and into school, to bring children who are behind in their schooling up to the appropriate grade level, and to support young people to stay in school for a longer period of time. Covenant House advocates to and works with national Governments to achieve changes in legislation and ultimately increase the accountability of Governments for the care of children who are currently underserved by them.

Goal 4, target 1: Covenant House supports young mothers and their vulnerable children through mother and child programmes in North and Central America, offering residential programmes, pre- and post-natal health care and counselling, and family reintegration counselling. In 2006 alone, 938 young mothers and 1,050 babies were provided food, clothing, shelter and medical care by Covenant House.

Goal 5, target 1: The focus of Covenant House's mother and child programmes in North and Central America is always to teach the mothers, some as young as

11 years old, to care properly for their children and to ensure that they make the healthiest choices possible for themselves and their children. Target 2: Covenant House focuses on bringing reproductive health care and education to the young people it serves, many of whom are uninformed about reproductive health care and the dangers of ignoring it. Covenant House offers programmes such as one that provides education about sexual health to street children in Mexico City, especially through a crisis hotline, which receives about 3,000 calls per year concerning sexuality, HIV/AIDS and other sexual health topics.

Goal 6, target 1: Covenant House runs a variety of HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, offers HIV/AIDS education through its crisis hotlines, and provides continuous care and counselling to young people infected with HIV in North and Central America. All of these efforts are aimed at preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS among homeless young people, who are especially vulnerable to poor health conditions.

Goal 7, target 4: Covenant House serves many children who are current or former slum-dwellers, especially in Central America, and maintains the objective of helping them to work towards a life outside the slums. Covenant House provides education, job training, job placement and other services that empower homeless young people to be employed and lead stable, productive lives outside the slums.

Goal 8, target 1: Covenant House prides itself on being a responsible organization and setting an example for its civil society peers by being transparent, promoting quality governance and fulfilling the mission of serving the suffering children of the street, a mission that is inherently tied to poverty reduction. Target 6: Covenant House has developed many new partnerships with members of the private sector in order to bring technology to its programmes in both North and Central America. Covenant House believes that amplifying the world views of the young people it serves and providing them with a mirror into their futures through the use of new technologies is critical to the mission of poverty reduction.

4. Federation of Cuban Women (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The main objectives of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) are: to struggle for the full incorporation, participation and promotion of women in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres of Cuba so that they may live under conditions of equal rights and opportunity; to strengthen the equality of women within the family unit, and to promote the development of non-sexist education in the family, school and society to prevent sexist stereotypes. The areas of activity include promoting women in decision-making, employment, social and community work, environmental work, education, health and training, as well as working with rural women and combating violence against women. The membership has increased since 2005 to over 4,197,134 affiliated women, representing over the 87.7 per cent of all women over 14 years of age, organized into 77,106 grass-roots organizations. The Foundation is self-sufficient in national and foreign currency, with no substantial changes in its sources for funding. It is affiliated with some international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the Women's International Democratic Federation, the International Council on Social Welfare and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Federation participates as much as possible, in accordance with its available funds and resources, in women's forums of the Economic and Social Council commissions, mainly the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Human Rights Council, attending the annual sessions of both bodies. Since the creation of the Council, the Federation has increased its participation, working together with other national NGOs, for example in the national coordination of the World March of Women so as to promote and implement the international actions of the World March to the benefit of Cuban women.

Representatives of the Federation have attended the NGO forum at the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth to fifty-third sessions (2006-2009). The Federation has participated in an average of more than 10 seminars, workshops, conferences and meetings annually, presenting written and oral contributions that have enriched debates on various issues, particularly those related to the Beijing Platform for Action such as equal participation of women and men in decision-making positions, enhanced participation of women in development, discrimination against girls, financing and women's empowerment, and the sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the home. In March 2009, the Federation joined with the Women's International Democratic Federation to hold a

parallel event entitled "International solidarity for peace and justice: women's access to work and their full emancipation".

In the fourth, seventh, ninth and eleventh sessions of the Human Rights Council (2007-2009), the representatives of the Federation made statements on women's issues, including health, employment, human rights, international solidarity, the gender perspective, the rights to self-determination and development, economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights, the rights of the Palestinian people, and the adoption of the universal periodic reports of Cuba and China. It also submitted written statements to the annual sessions in English and Spanish, with a special emphasis on items related to women and children's rights.

In 2006, during consideration of the combined fifth and sixth report of Cuba to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a representative of the Federation made an oral presentation about the role of the Federation in the advancement of women in Cuba, and its challenges and goals for the future.

The Federation actively participated in the NGO forum of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean during the tenth regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, 2007) and in the drafting and negotiation of the final document adopted in the forum for presentation to the Conference as a contribution from civil society. The Federation made a substantive contribution on agenda issues during the debates.

The Federation is an active member of CONGO. A representative of the Federation participated in the twenty-third CONGO General Assembly in December 2007, and contributed to the CONGO Newsletter with the article entitled, "CONGO: which paths to follow?" The Federation also submitted two written statements, on "Gender equality and gender justice" and "Poverty eradication".

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Federation has maintained relations with various United Nations bodies and has submitted more than 25 contributions and statements, including written statements in relation to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2008, a questionnaire as part of the consultation process of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council on education and human rights issues, Human Rights Council resolution 7/3 on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, the Economic and Social Council annual ministerial review, on the impact in the public health system, especially on Cuban women, of the economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed on Cuba by the Government of the United States, the adoption of the universal periodic review of Cuba, and to assist in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.

Representatives of the Federation participated in the thirty-third conference of the International Council of Social Welfare (France, 2008) and in the Women's International Democratic Federation fourteenth World Conference (Caracas, 2007). The Federation of Cuban Women is an active member of the Executive Committee of the Women's International Democratic Federation and coordinates the Regional Office for America and the Caribbean. The Federation of Cuban Women is affiliated

with other important international and regional organizations, such as the World March of Women, and the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action and collaborates closely with other organizations such as the Association of Women in Development.

The Federation contributed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by providing inputs to the Government of Cuba for the national reports for Cairo+15 and Beijing+15, drawing on its experience in community work and in promoting a gender approach, and its knowledge of the condition of Cuban women.

In the past four years, the Federation has developed two major programmes jointly with the Government of Cuba and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (prevention of HIV/AIDS and combating tuberculosis). Working with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Federation has designed and developed training courses and printed materials about struggling against sexist stereotypes.

The Federation has also developed a project with the World Food Programme to combat anaemia in pregnant women and children in eastern Cuba, which distributes supplies and provides information on iron-fortified food.

Over 40 guidance houses on women and the family have been created for women, families and children in collaboration with Belgium. The guidance houses belong to the Federation and are part of its work in each municipality providing guidance, advice and training in issues such as health, combating violence, education and the law and working in the community and with families and schools. The programmes are prepared by the Federation and assistance from Belgium provides training materials, equipment and improvement in the conditions in areas where the houses are located.

UNDP Havana worked with the Federation in organizing events to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in 2008, in relation to which the Federation also organized seminars, workshops, training programmes and national activities.

5. International Council of Management Consulting Institutes (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The International Council of Management Consulting Institutes (ICMCI) has contributed in important ways to furthering the development aims of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations at large and is pleased to file the present quadrennial review in order to make its support of the United Nations more widely known to Member States and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Council is the global voice of the profession of management consulting and the highest body of national management consulting institutes from over 45 countries worldwide. These national institutes administer, in accordance with world-class standards, codes of ethical and professional conduct and the common body of knowledge, the internationally recognized Certified Management Consultant designation earned by individual management consultants and the Accredited Consulting Practice designation earned by consulting firms. To participate in the Council, individual consultants and consulting firms must be a member of their country's sanctioned institute (or if none exists, then of another country in the region).

In partnership with its member institutes, the mission of the Council is to elevate the standards of management consultants worldwide and to provide confidence in the competency and professionalism of certified management consultants. The mission is also to support the creation and development of national professional institutes worldwide and encourage information-sharing, networking and reciprocity between institutes.

The Council was founded in 1987 and spread rapidly across the globe. In 2009, the Council had member institutes in over 45 countries. Each national institute must promote and implement the Council's standards among its members through training and certification, with a rigorous quality assurance procedure being implemented by the Council.

As part of the means to achieve its objectives, the Council is involved with external international bodies. It works with European Committee for Standardization to enhance development of professional standards and with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to promote and train consultants in Central Asian countries and to encourage the creation of national institutes.

The Council has observer status with the International Accreditation Forum and has recently established a relationship with the International Labour Organization, in addition to its existing association with the United Nations.

In 2001, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Council's practice of sending highly qualified and experienced Certified Management Consultants to countries with less developed economies to train, coach and mentor local management consultants and fledgling institutes in the fundamentals of consulting and in networking with other institutes in their region and around the world.

Since 2001, the Council has increased its membership by 19, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, China, Kazakhstan, Latvia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey,

Uzbekistan, and, more recently, the Islamic Republic of Iran. The secretariat was moved in 2006 from San Francisco, United States of America, to Nijkerk, the Netherlands. The Council has continued to spread its message of professional, quality and ethical management. The annual meetings have often been in less economically privileged locations or countries with fledgling professional institutes. Since 2001, international meetings have been held in Turkey, China, the Russian Federation, Barbados and Singapore. Future meetings are planned in Jordan, Taiwan Province of China, Thailand, Romania and Brazil.

In 2004, the Council adopted the following mission for its involvement as a special status non-governmental organization: "ICMCI will strive to establish professional management consulting institutes in developing economies and will work with other non-governmental organizations to assist them to understand how the use of qualified indigenous management consultants could assist them to achieve their goals for leadership, change management and development in the economy." The emphasis has been on practical achievement, either directly or by influencing others.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

In 2006, the Council designated two representatives based in the United States of America to work with the United Nations. For the past three years, these individuals have attended selected Economic and Social Council and World Bank meetings to acquire a comprehensive understanding of these bodies and to seek collaborative ventures.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held a panel meeting in Paris in November 2006 on "Promoting the building of a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society, with a view to enhancing digital opportunities for all people" following the World Summit on Information Society in Tunis in 2005. Building on its extensive experience worldwide, the Council emphasized that a balanced investment in three areas needed to be guaranteed in any development project using technology: technology, process and people, with the latter covering skills, training, organization, cultural issues and values. Investing in only one or two facets will inevitably lead to failure and waste of the investment.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Council prepared a paper entitled, "ICMCI success story: ICMCI provides a blueprint for establishing self-help in emerging economies and the efficient use of development funds" in response to a request for success stories in support of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and was invited by the

Economic and Social Council to present the paper at the high-level substantive session of the Council in July 2007.

Response to the Annual Ministerial Review in 2007 on innovation in the reduction of poverty and starvation

A special task force within the Council prepared a paper, entitled "Improving outcomes from development funding using indigenous management consultants" with the following messages:

(a) Competent indigenous management consultants improve the efficacy, effectiveness and efficiency of development-funded projects and increase the capability and capacity of the economy of any developing country, both of which increase the likelihood of alleviating starvation and poverty;

(b) The core competence of ICMCI is in establishing and running national professional bodies, and its mission is to build national institutes of management consultancy in developing countries, a mission which directly supports the position of indigenous management consultants. Emphasis is placed on:

(i) The entire development project — all aspects from conception to implementation — with a focus on achievement (efficacy), outcomes for the developing economy (effectiveness) and value for money (efficiency);

(ii) The culture and indigenous background of professionals within the developing countries;

(iii) The competence of the qualified management consultant as a key selection criteria;

(iv) ICMCI as a catalyst for establishing a national professional body and more competent indigenous qualified management consultants;

(v) The importance of other professions for effective development in a parallel manner.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Several national member institutes have been involved in local activities that are in line with the Millennium Development Goals. For example, the Institute of Management Consultants Bangladesh undertook the "Greenhouse gas emission reduction from industry in Asia and the Pacific" project for the United Nations Environment Programme, involving nine programmes in Bangladesh between 2002 and 2005. Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the project provided consulting and technical support to five industries (pulp and paper, ceramic, cement, fertilizer and iron and steel) introducing cleaner production and energy efficient tools and techniques.

D. Activities in line with World Bank objectives

The Council believes that its contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the World Bank relates to the establishment of a competent indigenous management consultancy profession in many countries,

thereby increasing the capacity and the capability of domestic economies. The emphasis on professional ethics and governance is used as an example in many developing economies.

E. Working in partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The paper prepared for the Economic and Social Council 2007 annual ministerial review was forwarded to the TurnAround Management and Business Advisory Services Programme of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) through the World Bank. The Programme aims at enhancing the business environment, especially for small- and medium-sized enterprises in countries with economies in transition. The strategy of the Programme is in line with ICMCI's objectives and uses the Certified Management Consultation qualification to enhance business-support professions in these countries.

F. Working with the International Labour Organization

The Council held discussions with the International Labour Organization offices in Turin and Geneva for a training programme for consultants in Africa and South America.

6. Lebanese Association for Popular Action (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The Lebanese Association for Popular Action's vision for a sustainable and durable development is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals. The Association believes that the sustainable development of Lebanese society is intrinsically linked with respect for and implementation of human, economic, social and political rights and that it can only be achieved through commitment, action and solidarity. This principle also implies solidarity and commitment on behalf of the international community, mutual respect and as fair North-South partnership.

Sustainable development can only be an efficient and viable process to empower underprivileged women and men if it provides them with the means in order to improve their living conditions. That is why it is a complex process that can only operate in the long term, integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions and the principle of good governance. Gender equality, the participation of young people in community life and promotion of human rights are core values and themes as well as essential conditions to attain sustainable development and reach the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals.

The objectives of the Association are to: (a) promote the human rights of the disadvantaged in Lebanon; (b) contribute in building a strong and responsible civil society in order to promote civic values and social justice; (c) provide assistance to all the people (health, education, psychosocial support, etc.); and (d) promote equality.

Thanks to its long experience in the field, the Association is extremely knowledgeable about the needs of local communities and intends to develop its advocacy initiatives in pursuit of a vision of positive social change. It has an excellent reputation for its independence and commitment to the people in need, and collaborates with many local and international institutions. Indeed, cooperation and coordination with other organizations are strong principles according to which the Association plans and programmes its activities.

While the Association's aims and purpose have remained the same, it has expanded its activities to include child protection and social support to refugees. Since July 2007, the Association has opened three centres for refugees (initially refugees from Iraq) in the southern suburbs of Beirut. The child protection initiatives mainly started after the July/August 2006 Israeli invasion in Lebanon, in order to provide psychosocial support to the children affected by the war. It was quickly expanded to prevention of child labour and domestic violence.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

In 2008, representatives of the Association attended the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Global Humanitarian Platform workshop in Amman, organized by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and funded by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the consolidated appeals process conference for Iraq organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Amman, emergency relief training organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Sweden, and the international observation of the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Association has participated in the following: (a) project on "Rehabilitation and reintegration of former detainees in south Lebanon", funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (February 2005-August 2006); (b) project on "Training and technical support to psychosocial staff, teachers and families and self-help workshops for adolescents", funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and implemented in partnership with the Italian non-governmental organization Movimondo (January 2007-January 2008); (c) project funded by the International Labour Organization to prevent child labour among Iraqi refugees (August 2007-January 2008); (d) project funded by the World Health Organization to provide sensitization on breast cancer in south Lebanon (November 2007-February 2008); (e) project funded by UNDP to provide free vocational training for young people in car mechanics (March 2008-July 2008); (f) project on "Promoting access to health care in Lebanon: prevention, sensitization, and early warning system building", funded by UNICEF (November 2007-January 2009); (g) project on "Child protection and social support for Iraqi refugees", aimed at improving well-being through providing access to non-formal educational skills and recreational activities, funded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (July 2007-present).

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Association has carried out the following activities in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 2, target 1: The Association has conducted 712 vocational training events, literacy classes, remedial courses and study support.

Goal 3, target 1: The Association has conducted 712 vocational training events, psychosocial activities, 705 children and women's clubs and 320 rural cooperatives for women.

Goal 4, target 1: The Association has provided 18,597 vaccinations and 3,312 sensitization sessions on mother and child health.

Goal 5, target 2: The Association has provided 4,086 gynaecological consultations and 3,816 echography tests and distributed vitamins for pregnant women.

Goal 6, target 3: The Association has provided 94,219 primary health-care services (general practitioners and specialists and X-rays and other examinations) distributed 39,798 medicines, conducted 1,051 sensitization sessions and screening for osteoporosis and 312 screenings for breast cancer (mammography).

D. Activities in support of global principles

The Association participated in World Refugee Day in June 2008 to advocate about the rights of this vulnerable population. Since Lebanon suffers from deep political and religious divisions, among other things the Association implements many programmes for human rights and civic promotion, using a peer-to-peer methodology. Leaders are chosen among the community to spread positive civic and democratic values, and to inform people about their rights.

The Association did not participate as much as it could have in major conferences of the Economic and Social Council or other United Nations meetings because of the high cost of transportation. The Association has, as a principle, set aside its funds exclusively for the beneficiaries in the field. Thus, it normally participates in conferences and workshops when the travel and accommodation costs are funded by the organizers or by a sponsor.